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distribution of French ferns. Eight species reach altitudes above 2500 meters. These are *Woodsia alpina*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *C. montana*, *Dryopteris Filix-mas*, *D. spinulosa*, *Polystichum Lonchitis*, *Asplenium viride* and *Cryptogramma crispa*. It is interesting to note that all of these occur in North America, with the exception of the last, which is represented here by the closely related *Cryptogramma acrostichoides*. Five species, *Trichomanes radicans*, *Hymenophyllum tunbridgense*, *H. peltatum*, *Asplenium marinum* and *Pteris cretica* are found only below 500 meters, and of these none occurs certainly in North America, though a *Trichomanes* of the southeastern United States has been referred to *T. radicans*. Note 5 deals with the inrolling of growing fronds in certain plants of the hart's-tongue, a phenomenon which M. Gadeau de Kerville believes to be due to some abnormality in the structure of the plant which prevented a sufficient supply of water from reaching the leaf-tissue.

C. A. W.

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## AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY

### ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY

#### Report of the President for 1917

In accepting this office it seemed to me that besides exercising such general knowledge of the Society's affairs as seemed possible, I should be present at its yearly meetings. Accordingly I made it a point to be present at the meeting in Brooklyn on the evening of December 29 and to exhibit and talk on some specimens from my collection. The meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by all present and I am sure that no one regretted their attendance and that all were well pleased by the hospitality of the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and its accomplished representative, Dr. Benedict. A very interesting and with us a popular exhibit was

the part of the gardens devoted to the outdoor growth of ferns, the only regret being that we could not examine them together in summertime.

It was my intention to visit Pittsburgh during Convocation week of the American Association and hold a meeting. Efforts were shaping to that end when unfortunately an accident happened to me on November 24, which confined me almost helpless to the house until the middle of January.

As to the supervisory knowledge of the affairs of the Society, it is sufficient to state that the budget for the year has been properly carried out, the experience of past years studied and utilized in the preparation of the budget for the coming year. The Secretary and Editors have really carried the burdens of the Society and are deserving of all praise, as well as the Treasurer and the Curator of the herbarium, whose work is equally onerous, but not as evident. Their reports should be carefully read and will show that there is a constant effort to keep expenses within limits and always to save a little every year for unforeseen uses.

It is hoped that we may hold a well attended meeting next December.

WILLIAM PALMER, *President*.

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### Report of the Secretary for 1917

The year, for the Society, has been quiet, with few out-standing events to record, but reasonably prosperous. Our usual activities have, with the one exception of a delayed number of the JOURNAL, gone smoothly forward. A meeting in combination with the Appalachian Mountain Club was held at Boston in May, and one was planned for December at Pittsburgh in connection with Convocation Week of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. War conditions, however, and accident so interfered with

this latter that the program planned for it was finally not given.

Several notable additions have been made to the Society's literary possessions. By an exchange with the *Philippine Journal of Science*, we have acquired a nearly complete set of Section C, Botany, of that publication, containing many of Dr. E. B. Copeland's important papers on tropical ferns. M. Henri Gadeau de Kerville has generously presented to the Society several copies of his "Notes sur les Fougères" and "Considerations et Recherches sur la Direction des Racines et des Tiges." Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, on behalf of the Sullivant Moss Society, has turned over to us a quantity of duplicate numbers of the *Fern Bulletin*. Mr. Winslow has given a set of Prince Bonaparte's *Notes Ptéridologiques*, and Mrs. Noble a copy of Vol. 4 of the *Fern Bulletin* and one number of Vol. 3. Members are again reminded that they may borrow any literature owned by the Society.

Two members, Mrs. Hurd and Mr. Druery, have died during the year. Five have resigned; five have been dropped for non-payment of dues. Twenty-one new members have been received, and the membership now (Dec. 31, 1917) stands at 270, a gain of nine over last year and, again, a new record for the Society. For three years now we have, each year, scored a small advance in number of members over anything previously reached. This slow, but apparently solid growth carries with it much encouragement; again, we must all do our part in seeing that it continues during the coming year. More than ever is such effort needed now, when the war and the paramount duties which it brings to many of us absorb so much of our energies; and when, nevertheless, the light of science and the love of truth need, more than ever, to be kept alive and nature offers us more of peace and profit than in less troubled times.

C. A. WEATHERBY, *Secretary*.

## Report of the Treasurer for 1917

### RECEIPTS

Cash on hand, Jan. 1, 1917.....	\$ 70.02	
Membership dues for 1915.....	\$ 2.00	
"    "    "    1916.....	13.75	
"    "    "    1917.....	190.35	
"    "    "    1918.....	11.00	
"    "    "    1919.....	1.00	
		218.10
Subscriptions for 1916.....	\$ 1.80	
"    "    1917.....	31.29	
"    "    1918.....	6.55	
		39.64
Emergency Fund, bal., acct. of <i>Dryopteris</i> sets.....	\$ 4.99	
"    "    sale of back numbers of JOURNAL.....	50.20	
		55.19
Interest.....		6.00
Advertising.....		4.00
Gifts for illustrating fund.....		16.25
Incidental receipts.....		.80
		\$410.00

### DISBURSEMENTS

Secretary's expenses: postage, election of officers, list of members, etc.....	\$ 23.40	
Treasurer's expenses: postage and printing.....	15.00	
Curator's expenses: herbarium supplies.....	8.87	
JOURNAL expenses: Printing.....	\$183.19	
Illustrating, regular.....	7.70	
"    special fund given....	16.40	
* Editors' expenses.....	11.54	
		218.83
Insurance on back nos. of JOURNAL, Order of Council No. 25....		1.85
		\$267.95
Balance, Dec. 31, 1917.....		142.05
		\$410.00

This balance was divided as follows:

Emergency Fund (income from sale of back numbers of JOURNAL and other irregular sources).....	\$ 55.19
Illustrating Fund: On hand, Jan. 1, 1917.....	\$ 5.90
Receipts.....	16.25
	\$ 22.15
Paid for illustrations.....	16.40
	\$ 5.75
Balance.....	\$ 60.94
Carried forward.....	

\* One bill for postage and other expenses of the 1917 JOURNAL is not yet received, owing to the delay in receiving No. 4 from the printer.

Brought forward.....	\$ 60.94
Set aside by Council Order No. 22 for printing catalogue of Herbarium.....	25.00
Regular fund, available for all Society expenses.....	56.11
	<hr/>
	\$142.05

## COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND PAYMENTS

<i>Item</i>	<i>Allowance</i>	<i>Payment</i>	
President's expenses, postage, etc.....	\$ 2.00	\$ 0	(no bill rec'd)
Vice-president's expenses, postage, etc.	1.00	0	" " "
Secretary's expenses, printing, etc....	25.50	23.40	
Treasurer's expenses, printing, etc....	15.00	15.00	
Curator's expenses, herbarium supplies	10.00	8.87	
JOURNAL expenses: editors' expenses..	12.00	11.54*	
" " publishing expenses	230.00	190.89	

The Treasurer again mentions his appreciation of the coöperation of the officers and members of the Society.

JAY G. UNDERWOOD, *Treasurer*.

### Report of the Editors for 1917

The Editors greatly regret the long delay in issuing the last number of the JOURNAL for the year. The entire edition was mislaid by the express company in transit between the printers' and Auburndale, whence the JOURNAL is mailed—a misfortune doubtless due to the over-strain which war conditions have put on every means of transportation.

With this untoward exception, the JOURNAL has had a good year. We have had a very generous and welcome gift of four fine plates from Mr. Ransier. We have been further fortunate in receiving articles of rather more than usual variety, and have a good prospect of continuing this pleasing condition during the coming year. We have been, for most of the time, one or two numbers ahead on copy. Under these circumstances, articles containing descriptions of new species and, to some extent, illustrated articles, are given the right of way; others are printed in the order of their receipt, except when occasional mechanical

difficulties in fitting them into a fixed number of pages prevent. We could still use a good deal more money; we still live in desire, rather than any immediate hope, for the time when, either through endowment, or a large increase in the Society's membership, we shall have funds enough to print extra pages and extra illustrations whenever the matter for them is forthcoming.

R. C. BENEDICT,  
E. J. WINSLOW,  
C. A. WEATHERBY,  
*Editors.*

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### Report of the Curator for 1917

Several valuable accessions have been made to the Society Herbarium during the past year. The names of the donors and the number of sheets contributed by each is as follows:

Macy Carhart.....	254
E. W. Graves.....	17
L. A. Wheeler.....	45
F. E. Corne.....	16
H. C. Bigelow.....	24
U. S. National Museum.....	219
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Total.....	575

Mr. Carhart's collection was composed mostly of specimens from New Jersey. About half of this collection was nicely mounted—a fact that was greatly appreciated by the curator. Mr. Graves' collection was from specimens collected in Alabama; Mr. Wheeler's from Vermont; and Miss Corne's from various localities in New England. Mr. Bigelow's set was made up of *Dryopteris* hybrids from the Society's distribution of the same. They were all mounted.

The 219 sheets received in exchange from the U. S. National Museum were mostly of tropical species and

included many new to the Herbarium. Fifty-four sheets in this set were mounted when received.

The total number of mounted sheets now in the Herbarium is 3001.

Seven members availed themselves of the privilege of borrowing specimens from the Herbarium for study during the last year.

The Herbarium needs specimens from the southern and western states with the possible exception of California. Specimens from all the Rocky Mountain states are needed. Members are urgently requested to keep these facts in mind and send in from time to time such specimens as are available from these localities. Also, remember that many varieties and forms of the more common species are still needed from other localities.

L. S. HOPKINS, *Curator*.

### Report of the Judge of Elections

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY:

The undersigned, Judge of Elections by appointment of President William Palmer, respectfully presents the following report of the balloting at the annual election held in October, 1917:

Whole number of ballots cast.....		96	
<i>For President</i>		<i>For Vice-president</i>	
William Palmer.....	95	Mrs. Mary Adam Noble.....	95
Rev. John Davis.....	1		
<i>For Secretary</i>		<i>For Treasurer</i>	
C. A. Weatherby.....	95	Jay G. Underwood.....	95

I therefore declare the election of Mr. William Palmer as President, Mrs. Mary Adam Noble as Vice-president, Mr. Charles A. Weatherby as Secretary, and Mr. Jay G. Underwood as Treasurer of the American Fern Society for 1918.

HENRY C. BIGELOW,  
*Judge of Elections.*

November 1, 1917.



The JOURNAL is feeling, in some ways, the effect of war conditions. As noticed in the Editors' report, the entire edition of the last number was temporarily lost by the express company, causing a delay of about two months in issuing it. Other numbers may also be behind time. The officers will do their best to keep the business of the Society going and up to date, and can only beg the members to be patient with delays and inconveniences which cannot be avoided.

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Through the kindness of Mr. Ware and Mr. Winslow, the Secretary has received a copy of the *British Fern Gazette* containing a notice of the late Mr. Charles T. Druery. The notice gives little biographical information, but emphasizes the industry, carefulness and intelligence of his scientific work, culminating in his important observations on apospory; his wide knowledge of ferns and his enthusiastic interest and success in growing them and perpetuating unusual forms. It calls attention, also, to a side of his nature less familiar to most of us—his love of fun, which found vent in countless quips and puns and in occasional humorous articles contributed to horticultural journals. These were often over the pen names of "Willyum Grubbins" (reputed gardener and apostle of very phonetic spelling) and "Prof. Ananias Waggles." It was the latter who maintained that any flower could be doubled at will by the judicious application (to the horticulturist) of sufficient quantities of "mountain dew"; and who discovered that though the female of a certain fossil species of animal was entirely hairless, the male was quite generally "*Hirsuter*." The former once expressed very pithily Mr. Druery's own opinion on nomenclatorial questions: "Take your cue from Kew and stick to it." Several of these humorous papers have been collected and published in a little volume entitled "The Tatur Disees and other Essays."

If a sufficient number of members are interested, I shall make a distribution of the species belonging to the genus *Polystichum* next fall. With this purpose in mind I wish to ask two things, viz., the loan of specimens in this group which are now in the herbaria of members of the Society. Such specimens should not be sent before the first of next September, should be plainly marked with the full name or initials of the owner and would, of course, be returned postpaid; second, that all those who are so situated that it is possible for them to do any collecting make abundant collections of such species of this genus as are accessible and send them in to be distributed amongst those who make contributions to the general exchange. I have the promise of a considerable quantity of *P. Jenningsi* for this exchange and may be able to secure several specimens of *P. Andersoni*.

L. S. HOPKINS.

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The following should be added to the list of errata on page 130 of Vol. 7:

Page 38, line 3 from bottom. For Institute, read Institution.

Page 54, line 28. For The var. *Michauxii* (Spreng.) n. comb., read The var. *MICHAUXII* (Spreng.) Farwell.<sup>1</sup>

Table of Contents to Vol. 7, line 24. For DEC. 17, read FEB. 23, 1918.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Farwell published this combination in Ann. Rep. Mich. Acad. Sci. 18: 79, Jan., 1917, about four months before Mr. Burnham's article appeared—a fact unknown to the editors at the time.